

Annotated Bibliography: Hearing Web Pages

Accessibility Forum

http://www.accessibilityforum.org/docs/feb_mtg_02/af-denver-cdrom_feb02/Worst_Case_Section_508_Rules/index.htm

Are you worried that Section 508 §1194.22 is another government gobbledygook document from hell? The Accessibility Forum’s “Worst Case Web Site” feature makes everything crystal clear. When it comes to web sites, Section 508 §1194.22 lists only 16 provisions. The Accessibility Forum lists each provision and provides an example of how a particular web site violates the provision.

Boston–IA

<http://www.boston-ia.org/>

Boston-IA is an organization of information architects, information designers, web designers, visual designers, educators, and other internet professionals concerned about the usability and accessibility of electronic media. This site has the beginnings of a great resource page. It will only get better.

Captioned Media Program

<http://www.cfv.org/caai/nadh7.pdf>

When it comes to providing access to people with hearing loss, captions are definitely the key. The Captioned Media Program produces “Captioning Key Guidelines and Preferred Techniques.” If you’ve ever wondered what font size to use or how to convey through captions that a person is thinking or dreaming, then consult CMP’s “Captioning Key.”

CITA (Illinois Center for Instructional Technology Accessibility)

<http://cita.rehab.uiuc.edu/magpie/magpie-caption.html/>

MAGpie (Media Access Generator) is a free authoring tool developed by CPB/WGBH National Center for accessible Media (NCAM). It is used to create captions and audio descriptions compatible with RealPlayer, QuickTime, and Windows Media Player. You’ll find a MAGpie tutorial on this site.

Gilmore, Jodie. “Designing Accessible Web Sites.” *The Willamette Galley*. Vol. 6, Issue 2, Mar. 2003.

http://www.stcwvc.org/galley/0303/C01a_Online_1of3.htm

This is an outstanding article about the benefits of designing an accessible web site.

National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) 508 Multimedia Tutorial

<http://oc.nci.nih.gov/web508/tut-b.html>

This multimedia tutorial is an excellent guide on how to make multimedia information on web sites accessible to those with hearing disabilities and, consequently, conform to Section 508 §1194.22 of the Rehabilitation Act. You will find the answers to nitty-gritty questions such as “Are synchronized captions required for audio, multimedia presentations, and live web casts or are written transcripts sufficient?” This web site also provides examples of accessible multimedia and resources on how to create accessible multimedia.

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National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM)

<http://ncam.wgbh.org/richmedia/index.html>

This web site is a resource center for developers who are interested in making rich media accessible to people with disabilities. There is a showcase of examples of accessible rich media on this site plus info about accessibility authoring tools and accessibility issues.

Section 508.gov

<http://www.section508.gov/index.cfm?seAction=3DContent&ID=3D5>

There is a wealth of information about Section 508 on this government site. The 508 Universe is a series of interactive web-based tutorials on different sections of the 508 standards, such as how to create accessible web sites and how to plan an accessible conference.

Section 508.com

<http://www.section508.com/about/>

Section 508.com clearly defines what Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act is about in just a few short paragraphs. It nails down exactly how the law is applied to web-based Intranet and Internet information.

(W3C) Synchronized Multimedia

<http://www.w3.org/AudioVideo/>

Read all about Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL pronounced “smile”) on this W3C web site. SMIL enables simple authoring of interactive audiovisual presentations and is currently a W3C recommendation.

WebAIM

<http://webaim.org>

Wow! What a site! WebAIM is filled with virtual gold nuggets of web accessibility information. You will find tutorials related to making multimedia accessible, a Section 508 checklist (similar to the one in the Accessibility Forum), web captioning tutorials for captioning with SMIL and SAMI for Real Media, QuickTime, and Windows Media Player using MAGpie.

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/#About>

Check out the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines that explains in detail how to make a Web site accessible for people with a variety of disabilities.

Visicast

<http://www.visicast.sys.uea.ac.uk/Publications.html>

Go to the Visicast web site for a futuristic look at accessibility. You’ll see plans for a virtual human that signs for the World Wide Web, multimedia, and other applications. The technology uses a computer to analyze text and transpose it to sign language.